

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 4535

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the weight limit of certain vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 621.101, Transportation Code Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 621.101. MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF VEHICLE OR COMBINATION.

(a) A vehicle or combination of vehicles may not be operated over or on a public highway or at a port-of-entry between Texas and the United Mexican States if the vehicle or combination has:

(1) a single axle weight heavier than 20,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances;

(1-a) subsection (1) does not apply to vehicles that are transporting items that have a reasonable possibility of shifting during transit;

(2) a tandem axle weight heavier than 34,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances;

(2-a) subsection (2) does not apply to vehicles that are transporting items that have a reasonable possibility of shifting during transit;

(3) an overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles heavier than the weight computed using the following formula and rounding the result to the nearest 500 pounds:

$$W = 500((LN/(N - 1)) + 12N + 36)$$

1           where:

2           "W" is maximum overall gross weight on the group;

3           "L" is distance in feet between the axles of the group  
4 that are the farthest apart; and

5           "N" is number of axles in the group; or

6           (4) tires that carry a weight heavier than the weight  
7 specified and marked on the sidewall of the tire, unless the vehicle  
8 is being operated under the terms of a special permit.

9           (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a)(3), two consecutive sets  
10 of tandem axles may carry a gross load of not more than 34,000  
11 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles  
12 of the consecutive sets is 36 feet or more. The overall gross  
13 weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles may not be  
14 heavier than 80,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances,  
15 regardless of tire ratings, axle spacing (bridge), and number of  
16 axles.

17           (b-1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,  
18 a vehicle or combination of vehicles that is powered by an engine  
19 fueled primarily by natural gas may exceed any weight limitation  
20 under this section by an amount that is equal to the difference  
21 between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas  
22 tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and the weight of a  
23 comparable diesel tank and fueling system, provided that the  
24 maximum gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles may  
25 not exceed 82,000 pounds.

26           (c) This section does not:

27           (1) authorize size or weight limits on the national

1 system of interstate and defense highways in this state greater  
2 than those permitted under 23 U.S.C. Section 127, as amended;

3 (2) prohibit the operation of a vehicle or combination  
4 of vehicles that could be lawfully operated on a highway or road of  
5 this state on December 16, 1974; or

6 (3) apply to a vehicle or combination of vehicles that  
7 operates exclusively:

8 (A) at a private port of entry;

9 (B) on private roads associated with the port of  
10 entry; and

11 (C) across a public highway between private roads  
12 associated with the port of entry under a contract under Section  
13 [623.052](#).

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.